



Days of Decision

by Jeffrey Breshears

The next three months will be extraordinarily tense as the 2012 election approaches. Throughout the media and blogosphere we read dire warnings such as, “This is the most crucial election in American history” – just as we’ve heard for the last several election cycles. Unfortunately, I have to agree. The reason why many knowledgeable observers regard each recent election as “the most crucial in our nation’s history” is because each election *is* the most crucial one yet. The stakes get higher the closer we approach the End, and by all indications we are approaching the End – at least, the End of America as we’ve known it as the most exceptional nation in all of human history.

Although the specific issues and dynamics change from one election to the next, the greatest challenge to our nation remains the same. It’s not an external force such as radical Islam but the more insidious internal threat of secularism. Like a cancer, secularism eats away at the spiritual and moral fiber of our nation, and in the process it corrupts those key institutions that most influence our culture: corporate America, education, the media, the legal profession, government, and the entertainment industry.

American society and culture are changing in ways that were virtually unimaginable just 20 or so years ago. And for the most part, most of these changes are negative. The America of the past is fading fast, and the future appears precarious at best.

Of course, no one should think that the ultimate solution to our problems lies in political reforms or changes in presidential administrations. Our core problem is far deeper than politics: it is a spirit of rebellion against God and his moral laws – something that governmental policies and programs are incapable of rectifying.

But politics still matters, and those who truly care about the quality of life for themselves and others must realize that government policies and programs have a direct impact on the values and behavior of citizens. They can either

encourage public decency and civility and reward individual initiative and responsibility, or they can punish producers and reward social parasites.

So what are our choices in terms of national leadership? Two candidates who are less than ideal, to be sure. Mitt Romney is a member of a pseudo-Christian cult and a man raised amid wealth and privilege whom many regard as out of touch with the concerns of average Americans. President Obama, on the other hand, is a professing Christian but one whose understanding of the Christian faith is questionable at best. In fact, the policies and programs of his administration over the past four years have actively promoted a secular and immoral agenda that is unprecedented in American history – not to mention new levels of federal debt, mismanagement, scandal and corruption.

As the old axiom says, “The enemy of the good is the best.” Nowhere is this more true than in politics, and those who hold out for perfection usually end up with the very worst alternative. In November we will choose between two flawed candidates who nonetheless offer considerably different visions for America’s future. Let us pray that the majority of voters will see through all the lies and distortions and propaganda and choose wisely because, in fact, politics matters and much is at stake.

The Areopagus Calendar

Fall Seminars

**Frontline Apologetics:
How to Respond to Questions
and Challenges from
Spiritual Seekers,
Religious Skeptics, and
Argumentative Contrarians**

Tuesdays, Aug. 28 - Nov. 13
6:45 PM
Eastside Baptist Church
Room 270

**A History of Christianity In
America, Part II: From the
American Revolution to
The Civil War**

Wednesdays, Aug. 29 - Nov. 14
6:45 PM
Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Room 205

Fall Forums

**The Gospel According To
BARACK:
Where Did Barack Obama Get
His Ideas About Christianity?**

Wednesday, August 15th
7:30 PM

Mt. Bethel Community Center
A presentation by

Dr. Jeffrey Breshears

based on the new Areopagus book,
“The Gospel According To Barack.”
How does President Obama’s
understanding of the Christian faith
impact his values and policies as
president?

Areopagus Publications

Now Available at Amazon.com

The Areopagus now has 5 publications available at Amazon.com. Each of these booklets is designed for group studies, and discounts are available for orders of 4 or more.

The Problem of Christian Anti-Intellectualism.

In order to defend the integrity of the Christian faith against its critics and be an effective witnesses for Christ in the midst of our diverse and pluralistic society, it is imperative that Christians become knowledgeable in apologetics, the systematic study of the rational and factual bases of the Christian faith.

Why Study Christian History?

The uniqueness of the Christian faith rests in the mediation of revelation through historical events. Therefore, it is essential that Christians have a thoughtful and biblically-based philosophy of history since our understanding of history influences how we perceive God working in our own lives. In studying history we encounter the most interesting people who ever lived, the most momentous events that ever occurred, and the most significant issues and controversies that have shaped the Christian faith and Western history.

Natural Law: The Moral Foundation for Social and Political Civility.

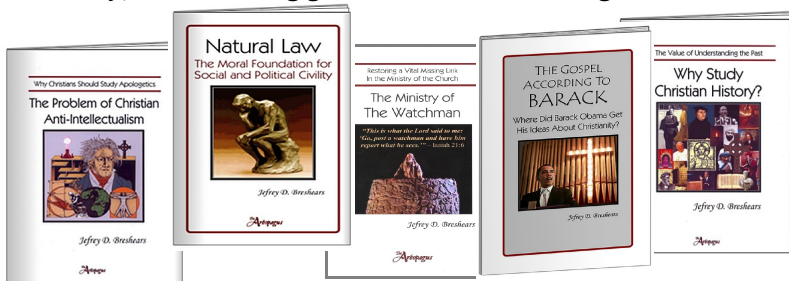
In a society in which morality and civility are eroding, what should be the proper response of Christians? Some Christians think the answer is to return to some mythical “Christian America” of the past, but the real solution is to recover the basic principles of Natural Law – those universal precepts derived from general revelation that provide the moral foundation for ethics, civility, and true social justice.

The Ministry of the Watchman: Restoring a Vital Missing Link In the Ministry of the Church.

For the church to minister effectively in an increasingly confused and dysfunctional society, it must exercise its prophetic role at the local level. Every church, regardless of size, should have an organized group whose designated ministry is to survey the surrounding cultural landscape and report regularly on matters of particular relevance to the congregation.

The Gospel According To Barack: Where Did Barack Obama Get His Ideas About Christianity?

This is neither a personal nor a political critique of Barack Obama, but an analysis of the two major influences that have shaped his understanding (or misunderstanding) of the Christian faith: mainline Protestant theological liberalism and Black Liberation Theology – both of which seriously distort traditional biblical Christianity. Understanding these influences helps explain why Obama can hold such unbiblical positions on issues such as abortion, homosexuality, and increasing government control of religious institutions.



The Areopagus Calendar

Upcoming Forums

Check our website at
www.TheAreopagus.org

for our Fall lineup of
Forum speakers and topics

September 20th

October 18th

November 15th

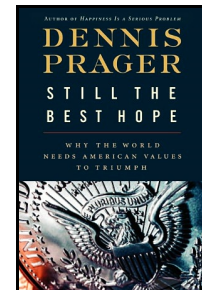
7:30 PM

Perimeter Church



Recommended Reading

“Still the Best Hope” by Dennis Prager



Dennis Prager is one of the most astute social commentators of our time and a passionate believer in “American exceptionalism.” In “Still the Best Hope,” he writes that humanity faces a crucial choice between three mutually-exclusive alternatives: radical Islamism, European-style secular socialism, and traditional Judeo/Christian-influenced culture as defined by the “American Trinity” of “In God We Trust,” “Liberty,” and “*E Pluribus Unum*” (“Out of Many, One”). This should be required reading for every Christian – not to mention every American voter.

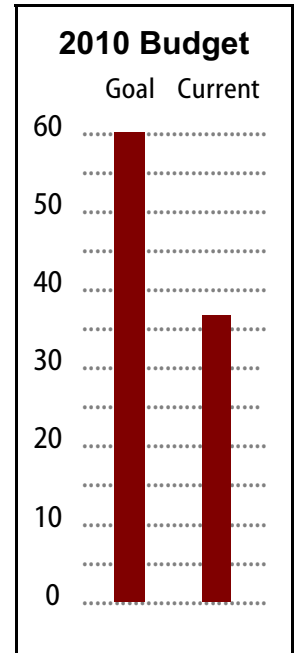
www.TheAreopagus.org

The Areopagus

As an independent and self-sustaining ministry, The Areopagus depends upon the financial support of our **Areopagus Associates** – those who value our ministry and desire to help us expand our outreach in the metro-Atlanta area.

The Areopagus is a highly cost-efficient ministry considering the many seminars, forums and other events that we sponsor each year. Our annual budget of **\$60,000** covers all of our expenses such as staff salaries, administrative costs, honoraria for speakers, etc.

If you would like to support this ministry financially, be assured that your contributions are much appreciated. You can contribute in one of two ways:



- (1) You can make your check payable to **"The Areopagus, Inc."** and mail your contribution to...
The Areopagus, Inc.
1220 William Robert Drive
Marietta, GA 30008
- (2) Go to our Areopagus home page at www.TheAreopagus.org and click on the "Donate" button under "Support the Areopagus" to pay on-line via PayPal.



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